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SUBJECT: PRES. KIKWETE TELLS REP. PAYNE THAT TANZANIA & TURKEY WILL
CO-HOST SOMALI TALKS

¶1. (SBU) Summary: Representative Donald Payne (D-NJ), in Dar Es Salaam to participate in the Mo Ibrahim Forum on Governance, met privately with President Jakaya Kikwete on November 14, along with Ambassador Lenhardt and staffers. Rep. Payne urged Kikwete, as a progressive African leader, to work to make the AU more effective. Kikwete revealed hitherto unannounced plans for Tanzania to partner with the governments of Turkey and Eritrea to bring the TFG and Somali opposition factions together for talks. End Summary.

Solid Base of Strong Ties

¶2. (U) As always, President Kikwete was gracious and appreciative of US assistance, and well-informed on details of substantive issues. He noted the "phenomenal" success of our Presidential Malaria Initiative in Zanzibar, and praised our PEPFAR efforts for giving people living with HIV/AIDS a future. Representative Donald Payne (D-NJ) thanked the President for the record time in which Ambassador Lenhardt was invited to present his credentials. He complimented Tanzania on the success of its reforms which led to the largest ever Millennium Challenge Compact award. He shared how impressed he had been, on visiting a PEPFAR-funded police HIV testing, care and treatment center earlier in the day, to find that mother to child transmission had decreased from 60 percent to virtually zero. He recounted his long history of visits to Tanzania, including meetings with President Nyerere, whom he recognized as the founder of the pan-Africanist movement and strong supporter of freedom fighters.

Challenge to the AU

¶3. (SBU) Rep. Payne urged Kikwete to think about ways in which enlightened leaders like him could make the AU more bold, firm, and effective in its mission. While recognizing there are bad leaders everywhere, he noted with regret the tendency within Africa to "leave them alone" and "look the other way." Payne stated this is a poor example for the younger generation, who are looking to emerging leaders like Kikwete for inspiration. He gave the example of Sudanese president Bashir being welcomed in African capitals while flouting international law.

¶4. (SBU) Kikwete responded that when he served as Chairman of the AU in 2008, his main concern was for the safety of the people of Darfur. He explained that action against Bashir was constrained by the fact that all UN and AU activities to protect and sustain vulnerable Darfuris depended on Bashir's continued authorization of

invite the Congressman to a closed Mo Ibrahim Foundation Board lunch, and subsequently granted him a lengthy individual meeting. These gestures also reflect well on our strong, positive bilateral relationship. We will continue to follow and report on the growing relationship between Turkey and Tanzania, especially their outreach to parties involved in the Somali conflict. End Comment.

[19](#). (U) CODEL Payne cleared this cable.

LENHARDT